



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Implementation of the Silent Inspector Program (SI) in the New England District (NAE)

USACE has developed an automated disposal monitoring program that electronically documents compliance monitoring and disposal parameters for disposal vessels and barges. This program is already in use in many sections of the country. Effective 1 January 2009, all permits/authorization letters issued for Navigation and private permit dredging jobs in New England will include the requirement for use of the SI system. Permits/authorization letters issued prior to 2009 without SI requirements remain valid as written but the permittee may request to have their permit modified to allow for use of the SI system.

Implementation of the SI Program is expected to bring many benefits to NAE. The SI system:

- Monitors and documents where and when dredging and disposal operations take place
- Provides 24/7 coverage of operations
- Reduces paperwork
- Creates detailed production reports
- Allows for fast responses to public or environmental concerns
- Improves government estimates and planning
- Improves project management
- Standardizes data collection and reporting
- Creates a standard base for dispute resolution and avoidance

SI includes a database that will help improve business practices, ensure environmental compliance and increase our understanding of dredging science and technology. Although dredging contractors may need to make initial one-time capital investments in their telemetry and tracking equipment, the SI center expects an eventual reduction of monitoring costs for permittees.

The NAE SI Project Development Team has developed a number of resources that will help contractors become compliant with the new monitoring system. The implementation of SI will result in the phasing out of the human disposal inspector program in New England.

Outreach and education projects include:

- Ongoing coordination with the SI Program's Support Center in Mobile, AL

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Silent Inspector Implementation

- Coordination with the SI Support Center sub-contractors for the installation and certification SI systems. **The certification step is critical for dredging contractors, as no dredging platform will be eligible for authorized dredging on NAE permitted or Navigation projects unless the SI equipment (installed by the contractor) is first certified by the SI Support Center.**
- Ongoing education and outreach efforts will help permittees and agents deal with the changes in monitoring obligations on the development of dredging projects.

If you have any questions, please contact (Norm Farris) at (978) 318-8336, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

For more information on the Silent Inspector programs, visit the SI website at <http://si.usace.army.mil/>.



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If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

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